

The Explorers Club

Pierre-François PUECH elected a Fellow of The Explorers Club on the 29th day of January, 1991.

The motivations of explorers are very diverse, but all have the passion to discover the unknown. The intention of discovering something unknown and the desire for adventure has put me in direct contact with the materiality of the past with its unimaginable potential.

Jules Verne (1828-1905) showed with his fictions the importance of expeditions and trips. This is not so much the picturesque invented by the author and the far-off that he allows us to reach that we appreciate in his novels, but the first outlook on the unknown. The discovery directly on the field of unexpected images as an inland sea in the "[Journey to the Center of the Earth](#)" can come in prehistoric archeology, or later in the laboratory during the analysis of the discovered material. After a number of obstacles, there comes a point where we feel that we reached the goal of adventure that, in the case of "The Voyage" de Jules Verne as in prehistoric archeology, concerns the primitive ancestor. Having personally a taste for adventure, I could not visit Jules Verne in the same way as was done in 1889 by Nellie Bly. Nellie Bly, American journalist at the New York World, turned the fictional "Around the World in Eighty Days" into fact for the first time. This sparked worldwide a great desire for adventure, born of the stories told in the press.

The extensive media coverage of the discovery on July 17, 1959, by Mary Leakey, of an ape-like hominid skull, no one had recorded before, provided with a sagittal crest has been for me the trigger for a double objective: prehistoric archeology that allowed me to reconstruct the upper jaw of [Garusi](#), known as close to Australopithecus called Lucy, and comparative anatomy that gave me the skills to recognize [Mozart's skull](#) preserved in Salzburg Mozarteum.



Puech P.-F., Cianfarani F., Roth H. (1986) Reconstruction of the maxillary dental arcade of Garusi Hominid1, Journal of Human Evolution Volume 15, Issue 5, July 1986, Pages 325-332.

Puech P.-F., Puech B., Tichy G. (1989) Identification of the cranium of W.A. Mozart, Forensic Science International, Volume 41, Issues 1-2, April-May 1989, Pages 101-110.